copy

(1)

137

Boston, March 25, 1879.

Dear Mrs. Phillips: (Prudence Crandall)

The unexpected receipt of your letter gives me unspeakable pleasure. I have for a long time, until within the present month, been ignorant of your locality & post-office address. On ascertaining them, I sent you a copy of the Boston Traveller, containing my reply to the discreditable speech of Senator Blaine on the Chinese question. This you received, and your letter acknowledgment of the same followed.

As the entire South is still cursed with contempt and hatred of her emancipated bondsmen, so is the Pacific coast with the same unhallowed feelings toward the Chinese immigrants, who, in point of cleanliness, sobriety, industry, thrift, & peaceable behavior, are much superior to any other class of foreigners in that section of our country; hence the special hostility of the latter. It is the anti-slavery struggle over again, so far as race conscription is concerned — the old snake with a new skin, but yellow instead of black. What calls it into special activity at the present time is the effort of the Republican & Democratic parties in California to outstrip each other — first, in reference to the approaching state election, and next, with regard to the succeeding Presidential campaign; and hence their catering to this vile spirit of Chinaphobia. Fortunately, here at the East it is universally condemned. But I must not occupy any more of my sheet with this matter.

I warmly reciprocate your congratulations on having been permitted to live to see the marvellous changes that have taken place in public sentiment, and in the condition of the colored people generally, since the early period of the anti-slavery conflict. Would to Heaven that, with the abolition of the nefarious slave system, the spirit which gave birth to it had been driven out of existence! That spirit is still rampant and all-pervading at the South, and now appears in Congress, haughty, defiant, disloyal, dominating both houses, and doubtless soon to take absolute control of the Federal Government. Desperate as it is, it will not dare to try to re-enslave the 4 millions who have been emancipated from the yoke of bondage, but it will leave nothing undone to make their condition as dependent and servile as possible. It could not be otherwise. To see those who have been bought and sold ~~at~~ on the auction block as chattels, transferred ~~used~~ to the ballot-box as American citizens with the right to vote and to be voted for, is a maddening spectacle to those unrepentant oppressors, and they naturally foam at the mouth. But the right shall yet have the victory.

The trials and outrages to which you were subjected in Canterbury for kindly consenting to receive colored pupils in your school, and which you met so nobly in the true martyr spirit, will ever stain the escutcheon of Connecticut, while they will

as certainly secure to you lasting historical fame. Dear and worthy Mrs. Fayerweather, your first colored scholar, has obtained her translation to a higher life, as you have been apprised.

My beloved brother-in-law, George W. Benson, is not the one at Brooklyn N.Y., to whom you refer. He has long resided in Kansas (a part of the time in California), greatly broken in health, on a farm about six miles from Lawrence. His post-office address is Lawrence, and he and Caroline will be greatly pleased to receive a letter from you — as will always

Your warmly attached friend
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

I am glad to hear that you are so pleasantly located.

I shall send you by this mail a later photograph of myself than you probably possess; and also a duplicate of my dear wife, whose loss is irreparable. I have now twelve grandchildren.

To Mrs. P. C. Phillips.
Oak Park, Ill. Co.
Kansas.

De
pro
ens
you
the
lain
Ser
rec
ea

con
so i
ing
of c
law
ign
Scal
ego
eva
call
the
each
one
par
fro
em